

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 15 has been amended to correct various informalities and delete some superfluous language. Furthermore, claim 15 has been slightly re-written to better define the method for producing the product of claim 1. These changes are provided solely for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are neither provided for overcoming the prior art nor do they narrow the scope of the claim for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1, 6, 8, 10-11, and 13 have been rejected as being anticipated by *Russell* (WO 93/05103) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In item 4 on pages 3-4 of the Office action, claims 2-5, 7, 9, and 15-18 have been rejected as being obvious over *Russell* in view of *Thum* (US 5,194,199) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

In item 5 on pages 8-9 of the Office action, claims 12 and 14 have been rejected as being obvious over *Russell* under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claim 1 as amended calls for, inter alia:

coating a **solid core** material with activatable material;

enclosing the solid core material and the activatable material with an **outer plate** to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate;

passing the assembly to a corrosion treatment bath and subjecting all **interior** areas of the assembly to a corrosion protection agent; and

subsequently passing the assembly to a drying oven for heating and, thereby, initiating foaming of the

activatable material at least partly filling the defined cavity.

Russell discloses a method for strengthening a hollow member by inserting a foaming material and heating the foaming material to cause the foaming material to foam and to fill the hollow member. The foaming material is then heated again to a higher temperature for causing the foaming material to set.

Russell uses a "foaming means and plastics material" where "the foaming means causes the plastic material, which is in **liquid** form ..., to foam" (page 1, lines 24-25) (emphasis added). Hence, Russell does not disclose the methods step of coating a **solid** core material with activatable material.

Russell states that "[i]n conventional modern auto finishing the body is given a total dip electocoat followed by ... a baking oven". (page 2, lines 11-12). However, Russell states on page 2, lines 24-25, "[t]he use of zinc in the foam may also provide a measure of galvanic protection against corrosion of **steel** substrate **surfaces**" (emphasis added) and on page 2, lines 27-28, "the cured foam produced is a closed cell foam. This provides for improved corrosion protection of the **metal surfaces**" (emphasis added). This indicates that Russell does not disclose a process step where the assembly is passed to a corrosion treatment bath subjecting all **interior** areas of

the assembly to a corrosion protection agent, as recited in claim 1. Consequently, *Russell* also does not disclose the method step order of applying corrosion agent before heating and activating the activatable material.

On page 6 of the Office action, the Examiner correctly stated in regard to the obviousness rejection that "*Russell* (WO'103) fails to teach outer plate enclosing said solid core material with said foamed material at least partly filling a defined cavity between said solid core material and said outer plate."

Therefore, the invention as recited in claim 1 of the instant application is believed not to be anticipated by *Russell*.

Claim 15 as amended calls for, inter alia:

a solid core material formed of a material selected from the group consisting of foamed metallic material, unfoamed metallic material, synthetic material reinforced with fibers selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, carbon fibers, and glass fibers;

an activatable material enclosing said solid core material;

an outer plate enclosing said solid core material and said activatable material to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate; and

a corrosion protection agent applied to said assembly before heating said assembly and, thereby, initiating foaming of the activatable material at least partly filling said defined cavity.

As stated above, on page 6 of the Office action, the Examiner correctly stated that "Russell (WO'103) fails to teach outer plate enclosing said solid core material with said foamed material at least partly filling a defined cavity between said solid core material and said outer plate." The Examiner then cites the secondary reference *Thum* for teaching an "outer plate enclosing said solid core material with said foamed material". As discussed in great detail in the previous paragraph, *Russell* also neither discloses a solid core material nor a corrosion treatment with a corrosion protection agent before heating and, thereby, initiating foaming of the activatable material, as recited in claim 15.

Therefore, the invention as recited in claim 15 of the instant application is believed not to be obvious over *Russell* in view of *Thum*.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that *Russell* does not show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 2-14 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well. It is also believed to be clear that *Russell* in view of *Thum* do not suggest the features of claim 15. Claim 15 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since claims 16-18 are ultimately dependent on claim 15, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-18 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone counsel so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

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December 17, 2001

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Applic. No. : 09/666,951

Version with markings to show changes made:

Claim 1 (twice amended). A method of producing a hollow section with internal reinforcement, which comprises:

coating a solid core material with activatable material;

enclosing the solid core material and the activatable material with an outer plate to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate;

passing the assembly to a corrosion treatment bath and subjecting all interior areas of the assembly to a corrosion protection agent; and

subsequently passing the assembly to a drying oven for heating and, thereby, initiating foaming of the activatable material [and] at least partly filling the defined cavity [with the activatable material].

Claim 15 (twice amended). A hollow section, comprising:

a solid core material formed of a material selected from the group consisting of foamed metallic material, unfoamed metallic material, synthetic material reinforced with fibers

selected from the group consisting of metal fibers, carbon fibers, and glass fibers[, and a hollow section];

[activated, heat-foamed material on said solid core material[, said activated] an activatable material enclosing said solid core material;

an outer plate enclosing said solid core material[, with] and said [foamed] activatable material [at least partly filling a defined cavity between said solid core material and said outer plate] to form an assembly with a defined cavity inside said outer plate; and

a corrosion protection agent applied to said assembly before heating said assembly and, thereby, initiating foaming of the activatable material at least partly filling said defined cavity [said solid cover material, said foamed material, and said outer plate being corrosion treated with a corrosion protection agent and subsequent drying].